

WILKINSBURG BOROUGH
Council Work Session
March 5, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

President McCarthy-Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 6:36 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, 605 Ross Ave., Wilkinsburg, PA.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called to establish a quorum. Present were Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Garrett, Mr. Taiani, Ms. Trice, Ms. Moore, Ms. Grannemann, Mr. Shattuck, Ms. Macklin and President McCarthy-Johnson. Marla P. Marcinko, Borough Manager and Mayor John A. Thompson were also present. A quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the pledge of allegiance, a moment of silence was observed to remember victims of violent crime.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Frances Butts – 521 Hill Ave. – Inquired about the residential parking restriction in the 500-700 blocks of Hill Avenue. Ms. Marcinko stated that the residential parking restrictions were recently amended, following a complete audit of residential parking permits issued and assessment of the need for the designated restrictions. She stated that the action was taken by Council to eliminate the restriction in those blocks wherein no permits for residential parking had been issued in the past two years.

Claudia Butts Lee – 527 Hill Ave. – Commented on the need for the residential parking restriction to limit use by transient users.

Mr. Taiani requested that Council consider establishing residential parking restrictions in the 500-700 blocks of Hill Avenue. Ms. Marcinko commented on the process which has been followed by Council to establish, and eliminate, parking restrictions.

A motion was made by Mr. Taiani, second by Ms. Trice, to authorize advertisement of an ordinance to establish residential parking restrictions in the 500 block of Hill Avenue.

President McCarthy-Johnson suggested that the practice of requiring a petition be submitted by residents making the request, be waived, and suggested that the Borough Engineer review the request and provide a recommendation.

Albert Johnson – 524 Hill Ave. – Commented on the history of parking in the area and subsequent to the construction of the busway. He was also in favor of the residential parking restriction.

Following discussion, it was the consensus of Council to defer the advertisement of the ordinance until such time as the specific streets and blocks, for the restrictions, could be identified and assessed.

A motion was made by Mr. Lefebvre, second by Ms. Moore, to table the advertising of an ordinance to establish residential parking restrictions in the 500 block of Hill Ave.

Paul Dorsey – 901 Hill Ave. – Commented on the deterioration of Hill Avenue and the need to condemn the row houses at 902-908 Hill Avenue. Mr. Dorsey thanked the Borough for the recent demolitions on Glenn Avenue and 1328 Mill Street. He stated that he has discussed concerns with Code Enforcement, relative to trash and dumping at 900 Hill Ave and 1313 Mill Street.

President McCarthy-Johnson informed Mr. Dorsey that the owner is required to provide proper receptacles for garbage storage.

Brenda West-Evans 605 North Ave. – Ms. West-Evans commented that the 500 block of Hill Avenue, 600 block of North Avenue and Holmes Street are still posted for permit only parking.

Mike Evans – 605 North Ave. – Mr. Evans also spoke in support of residential permit parking restrictions.

Denise Edwards – 118 Peebles St. – Questioned whether a vote had been taken on the motion to table the advertisement of the ordinance for the residential permit parking restrictions. She commented on the process followed for the establishment of residential parking restrictions. Ms. Marcinko responded to Ms. Edwards' questions. Ms. Marcinko stated that Council action is required to adopt an ordinance in order to establish the restrictions, in order that they may be enforced.

A question was raised as to whether payments for residential parking permits, after the elimination of the restriction, would be refunded. President McCarthy-Johnson stated that the Borough Solicitor will be consulted.

Darlaine McGill – 516 Hill Ave. – Questioned how ticketing was previously enforced. President McCarthy-Johnson stated that the matter will be reviewed.

John Ward – 1221 Swissvale Ave. – Commented on issues related to speeding on Hill Ave and Swissvale, which were discussed several years ago. He questioned whether the speed limit could be reduced in that area.

Mr. Taiani questioned whether the Borough uses NRAD or VASCAR and whether there may be any money in the budget for this equipment. He also commented that directed patrols may be

effective in controlling speed. President McCarthy-Johnson suggested that those questions be directed to Chief Coleman. President McCarthy-Johnson will speak to the Chief.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

President McCarthy-Johnson clarified that the action taken was to postpone the advertisement of the ordinance in order to identify the specific streets and blocks recommended for the residential parking restriction.

President McCarthy-Johnson announced a Men's Leadership Conference which will be held on Friday, March 14, 2014, entitled "Man Up". It is sponsored through Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, at no cost.

CAPITAL PLANNING

None at this time

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mayor John Thompson provided the following report:

- Police Department conducting an Adult Police Academy beginning April 23, 2014
- Anticipating two new hires in the Police Department, to be reporting for duty on Monday, March 10, 2014
- Warming Center meeting will be held March 13, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. at South Avenue United Methodist Church
- PUCS Clean-Up is scheduled for April 14, 2014
- Foot patrol in the Business District will begin when the weather breaks
- Water leaked from a bathroom located in the Police Chief's office that caused flooding in the evidence room of the Police Department. The problem was not related to the new construction in the department.

President McCarthy-Johnson announced an executive session will be held following the meeting to discuss personnel issues.

Mr. Taiani inquired about the use of red light cameras in the Borough. Mayor Thompson stated that the Borough would need to seek funding for such a project.

Ms. Grannemann offered to distribute information on the Citizens' Police Academy.

GENERAL MATTERS

Ms. Moore announced that William-Russell Robinson is no longer the Chairperson of the Budget and Finance Committee on County Council, on which he served for nearly eight years. He continues to serve as a member of County Council.

Ms. Marcinko informed Council about recent changes to the Sunshine Law relating to the announcement of executive sessions. Council is now required to state, with more specificity, those issues to be discussed in executive session. She stated that tonight's executive session will be held to discuss updates on litigation claims and costs, management reviews and any outstanding contract issues, union negotiations, and strategic planning.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, on motion by Ms. Trice, second by Mr. Lefebvre, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:25 P.M.

Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson
President of Council